Guidelines for issuing arms licences

2424. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Central Government are formulating guidelines for issuing arms licences for prohibited bore weapons;

(b) whether, in view of terrorist activities in Punjab and other parts of the country, Government propose to issue the licences to the eminent leaders and political parties for the prohibited bore weapons; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) According to the existing instructions no licences are to be issued for prohibited bore weapons to the members of public including eminent leaders and political parties. The question of formulating any guidelines, therefore, does not arise.

Repayment to the fixed deposit holders of Swadeshi cotton mills Co. Ltd., Kanpur

2425. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formally aken over the Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited, Kanpur;

(b) whether the work of repayment of noney to the fixed deposit holders has ommenced;

(c) whether the Commissioner of Payments (7th Floor, Ashok Estate, 24 Barahamba Road, New Delhi) has called for he claims of the depositors;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Payments has refused to pay he claims of depositors;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor; nd

(f) what steps have been taken to ear the applications of the claimants peditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (f). The Government have nationalised the six textile undertakings belonging to Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited, Kanpur, and not the Company as such.

The Depositors' claims fall under Category-VI of the Schedule to the Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1986. These claims, provided they have been validly filed, can be considered by the Commissioner of Payments only if surplus amount is available after satisfying the claims specified in the higher categories. Since some claims filed under the higher categories are pending adjudication, the depositors' claims have not yet come up for consideration by the Commissioner of Payments.

Criteria for grant of dearness allowance

2426. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis, rationale and criteria prescribed and followed by Government in determining the Dearness Allowance to serving employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners and family pensioners from time to time; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to minimise the impact of inflationary pressures, which have become a common phenomena affecting every section of the society, especially salaried classes, public servants and pensioners/family pensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Dearness Allowance/ Dearness Relief which is being paid at present is in the nature of a compensatory payment to serving employees/ pensioners and family pensioners for erosion in the real value of their salaries/pensions resulting from price rise. Over the years, there have been many changes in the policy for payment of Dearness Allowance/Dearness

Relief, particularly with regard to coverage of employees/pensioners, percentage of neutralisation for different categories periodicity of payment, etc. The Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief presently paid to Central Government employees/pensioners is based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission. The Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief is now payable on the basis of percentage rise in the 12 monthly average of Consumer Price Index over the base of 608 to which the revised pay scales and revised rates of pension are pagged. Dearness Allowance is now sanctioned only twice a year i.e with effect from 1st January and 1st July by way of 100 per cent neutralisation to the employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/-, 75 per cent for basic pay above Rs. 3500/- and upto Rs. 6000/- and 65 per cent above Rs. 6000/- p.m. Similarly Dearness Relief to pensioners/family pensioners is sanctioned twice a year i.e. with effect from 1st January and 1st July by way of 100 per cent neutralisation for pensioners drawing pension upto Rs. 1750/-, 75 per cent for pension above Rs. 1750/- to Rs 3000/- and 65 per cent above Rs. 3000/-p.m. Orders for release of Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief to serving Central Government employees and pensioners/family pensioners are issued by the Govt. from time to time.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to keep price rise under check include enhanced distribution of food grains through Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of the PDS with opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in Government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

Action against officers responsible for fraud in U.B.I.

2427 SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the *Indian Express* of 9th April, 1988 (Bombay edition) captioned 'Rs. 20 lakh bank fraud suspected';

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether any action has been initiated against the officers of the said Bank involved in the fraud, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is being looked into.

Speed-breakers in Maharani Bagh, New Delhi

2428. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) had requested the Zonal Commissioner of MCD (New Delhi Zone) to construct speed-breakers and to fix barriers on the link road connecting Mathura Road to Western Avenue of Maharani Bagh in November 1985;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the MCD/Traffic Police in the matter;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to direct the MCD to construct speed-breakers and fix barriers to prevent the entry of HTVs, etc. and also direct the Traffic Police to prohibit parking of HTVs and buses on this link road in the interest of the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.